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United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

January 26, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Conyers:

Thank you for your letter of January 12, 2005, jointly signed by Ranking Minority Member Henry A. Waxman, House Committee on Government Reform, asking the Government Accountability Office to provide information on waiting times experienced by voters at polling locations during the 2004 elections.

Given widespread congressional interest in election issues and consistent with our congressional protocols and statutory authority, GAO has decided to perform work related to election processes and technologies issues under the Comptroller General's authority. This will enable us to use our resources more efficiently, provide a comprehensive picture of election issues, give us the flexibility to brief you and other interested congressional committees and Members of Congress on the interim results of our work, and provide widespread dissemination of a final report once it is completed. We plan to focus on broad systemic election administration issues to help inform the Congress in considering potential improvements for future elections.

Mr. Norman Rabkin, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice, is the principal point of contact for our review of election and voting issues. We will keep Mr. Perry Applebaum apprised on the progress of our work. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rabkin at 202-512-8777 or Mr. Ralph Dawn, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations, at 202-512-4544.

Sincerely yours,

Gloria L. Jarmon
Managing Director
Congressional Relations